
NEWSLETTER

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Kentucky READ Campaign

Reading is fun! That's the message participants photographed for READ posters want to convey. Some of the world's best-known faces lend their support to the simple but powerful message - "READ" - on prestigious posters published nationally by the American Library Association (ALA). Celebrities donate their time and use of their photograph. They select their own book and the posters are sold on a non-profit basis primarily to libraries and schools.

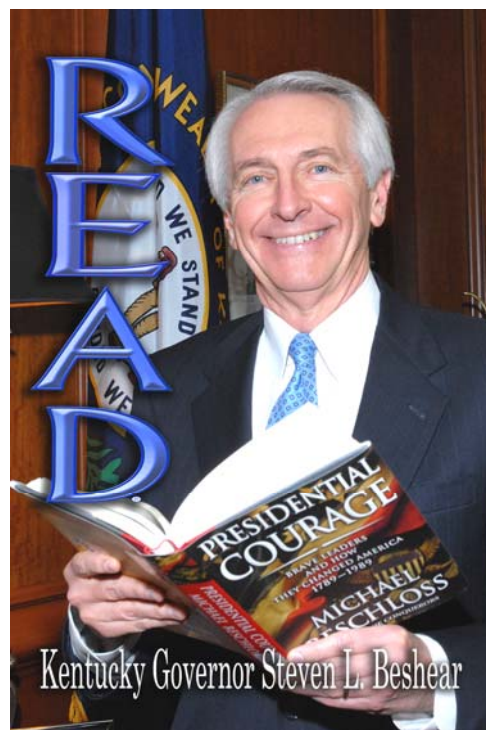
Recently Kentucky got into the act. The Kentucky READ poster campaign features Kentucky role models enjoying a favorite book, which they have personally selected. The purpose of the campaign is to show that reading is fun, to promote awareness of Kentucky public libraries and to stress the importance of literacy.

The Kentucky Public Library Association (KPLA) Legislative Committee initiated the READ poster campaign to thank the 22 members of the Kentucky Public Library Legislative Caucus and to recognize their efforts in advocating for public libraries, as well as to promote awareness of public libraries.

READ posters were featured in a display for Library Legislative Day, with the theme "EVERY COUNTY WINS!" Libraries across Kentucky began photographing librarians and library supporters for READ posters to send to Frankfort to be hung on the walls at the state capitol.

More than 80% of the members of the General Assembly and many other Kentucky public officials, including Governor Steve Beshear, have been photographed for READ posters.

"Public libraries are essential to thriving communities," said Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear. "The many services they provide encourage young minds to embrace the value of reading and help foster the exploration of diverse concepts."



Governor Beshear's READ Poster

This KPLA sponsored state version of the READ poster campaign is the first of its kind in Kentucky. Participating role models include the following:

- * members of the Kentucky Public Library Caucus (22 representatives who advocate for the state's libraries)
- * members of the General Assembly
- * Governor Steve Beshear
- * First Lady Jane Beshear
- * Lieutenant Governor Daniel Mongiardo
- * Education Secretary Helen Mountjoy
- * Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner Jon Draud
- * Attorney General Jack Conway
- * State Auditor Crit Luallen
- * Secretary of State Trey Grayson
- * State Treasurer Todd Hollenbach
- * Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer
- * State Librarian and Commissioner Wayne Onkst

The Governor's office had the posters of Governor and Mrs. Beshear enlarged, framed and hung in the office. Lieutenant Governor Mongiardo did the same, and Secretary of State Grayson is in the process of doing this as well. State Librarian Onkst and the four Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) division directors have participated and their posters are going to be framed and hung at the department. Attorney General Conway has his READ poster on his web page at: <http://ag.ky.gov>.

All of the photos were taken by education cabinet photographer Tim Thornberry. He took photos of several library directors and other library supporters when they visited on Library Legislative Day as well as all of the legislators and constitutional officers.

KPLA is proud to highlight public libraries' support of public schools and literacy efforts in the commonwealth - and to remind students that no matter what your age, reading is both fun and a stepping stone to personal success.

So far, over 800 posters have been purchased by participants to give to the libraries and schools in their districts. Many are sending personal letters to schools and libraries with the posters. The message they convey is that libraries can be windows to the world beyond our community and are an indispensable building block for our present and future.

Kentucky Writers' Day

The Kentucky Arts Council will host Kentucky Writers' Day at 10:00 a.m. EDT on Thursday, April 24, 2008 in the Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort. This event is celebrated every year in honor of the birth date of Kentucky native Robert Penn Warren, the first poet laureate of the United States and winner of 3 Pulitzer prizes. It is free and open to the public.

Highlights of Kentucky Writer's Day include public readings by Kentucky Poet Laureate Jane Gentry Vance and past Poets Laureate Joe Survant (2003-2004) and James Baker Hall (2001-2002) as well as poetry recitations by Pikeville High School student Amy Cordero and Western Hills High School student Emmanuel Nfor. Cordero is the Kentucky finalist and Nfor is the runner-up of the *Poetry Out Loud* National Recitation Contest sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation.

A special reception to honor all Kentucky writers will follow at 11:00 a.m. on the mezzanine level of the Capitol.

Get Caught Reading Month

Get Caught Reading is a nationwide campaign to remind people of all ages how much fun it is to read. While the campaign is promoted throughout the year, May is Get Caught Reading Month. Get Caught Reading is supported by the Association of American Publishers (AAP). Launched in 1999, Get Caught Reading is the brainchild of former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, President and Chief Executive Officer of AAP, the industry association representing book publishers. She saw the opportunity to spread the word about the joys of reading through an industry-supported literacy campaign.

Because of research indicating that early language experience actually stimulates a child's brain to grow and that reading to children gives them a huge advantage when they start school, this campaign encourages people of all ages to enjoy books and magazines and to share that pleasure with the young children in their lives.

Well known figures including First Lady Laura Bush, Drew Carey, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Donald Duck, Patty Duke, Whoopi Goldberg, Billy Graham, Derek Jeter, Vernon Jordan, Jake Lloyd, Rosie O'Donnell, Dolly Parton, The Rugrats, Jane Seymour, Sammy Sosa, Spider Man, Erik Weihenmayer, and Robin Williams have all been "caught reading" their favorite books and magazines for print ads and posters seen by millions of people across the country. In addition, more than 200 Members of Congress have been photographed "caught reading" on Capitol Hill. All of the Get Caught Reading images are available at: <http://www.getcaughtreading.org/celebrityposters.htm>.

Hundreds of teachers and librarians across the U.S. have embraced the campaign. They are setting up Get Caught Reading corners, allocating a special time each day for leisure reading, and taking photos of students "caught reading" for classroom posters.

2007 Kentucky Public Library Salary and Benefits Survey

Recruiting and retaining high caliber staff is becoming increasingly difficult due to the complexity of today's library business. Trustees and library management need benchmarks against which to compare the pay and benefits they offer their employees. The Field Services Division of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) completed its second annual survey of public library employee salaries and benefits in Kentucky in October and November of 2007. The goal of the survey was to create a unique management resource that will aid public library directors and trustees in developing competitive salary and benefit packages for their employees in 2008. The data on the salaries and benefits public libraries in the state provide their staff is now available.

The survey asked for information in four areas: 1) major benefits offered; 2) number of hours considered full time at a library; 3) base or starting salary per hour for over 20 positions; and 4) minimum education required for a position (HS or GED, AA, BA/BS, MLS). The data provided by each library is confidential.

The 2007 salary and benefits survey includes data from 43 public libraries across the state. The data has been compiled and reported by the county population served. The libraries are divided into six population ranges for the comparison of salary and benefits. This same breakdown was done for the 2006 results. In addition, the 2007 results are compiled by "revenue received" according to information reported in the 2006-2007 annual report.

The population served comparison is helpful because it illustrates the wide diversity of salaries and benefits paid. The comparison based on revenues received shows a clear correlation between the diversity of jobs found in library and the salaries and benefits provided by the libraries grouped this way. The results show:

- Those libraries with annual revenues of under \$250,000 have a smaller diversity in positions and provide fewer benefits, but do pay similar salaries to those with revenues between \$250,000 and \$500,000.
- The diversity of positions found does not vary much between those receiving between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000, though their total may increase in those libraries with higher revenues.
- The libraries receiving over \$2,000,000 have the most diverse positions in their organizations. Only one library reported having an audio-visual position.
- Between a quarter and a third of libraries within each group with part-time staff working over 100 hours per month offer some form of vacation and medical leave benefit.
- In terms of minimum education required for a particular position, libraries with revenues under \$500,000 require only a high school diploma or GED for almost every position, with the notable exception of director.

- The minimum education required for a position tends to be higher among libraries that receive over \$1,000,000 in annual revenues.

The 2007 salary and benefits survey results are online at the KDLA website: <http://kdla.ky.gov/libsupport/survey/salary-results.htm>. The 2006 survey results are at: <http://kdla.ky.gov/libsupport/survey/salary-results2006.html>.

New Kentucky State Archivist

Education Cabinet Secretary Helen W. Mountjoy announced the appointment of Barbara Teague as state archivist and records administrator, and public records division director at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Teague replaces Richard N. Belding, who retired after 28 years with KDLA.

As state archivist, Teague will be responsible for leading the state's public archival agency and for overseeing records management services for state and local governments. The state archivist is also the coordinator of the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board, which provides advice, assistance and leadership to nearly 300 archival and manuscript repositories in the state.

Annual SOLINET Meeting

The annual SOLINET meeting will be held May 8 and 9, 2008 at the Emory Conference Center Hotel in Atlanta, GA. SOLINET - the Southeastern Library Network, Inc. - is a not-for-profit library cooperative serving the Southeastern United States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia) and the Caribbean. Additional information and conference registration is available at <http://www.solinet.net/>.

National Library Legislative Day

On May 13 and 14, 2008, librarians of all kinds are invited to Washington, DC, for an event like no other: National Library Legislative Day (NLLD).

NLLD is a two-day event in which people who care about libraries participate in advocacy and issue training sessions, interact with Capitol Hill insiders, and visit congressional member offices to ask Congress to pass legislation that supports libraries.

National Library Legislative Day is sponsored by the American Library Association, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, District of Columbia Library Association, and Special Libraries Association.

Can't come to Washington? You can still participate in National Library Legislative Day by organizing library supporters in your state to phone, fax, and email Congress on May 13 and 14. Visit virtually: <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/nlld2008.cfm>.

‘Cross the Commonwealth

Former **Louisville Free Public Library** Director, and current Richmond (VA) Public Library Director Harriet Henderson, who received the Outstanding Public Library Services Award during her Kentucky tenure, will receive the 2008 Sullivan Award at the American Library Association Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. This award is given to an administrator for ongoing support of children's and youth services.

Carol Pitts Diedrichs, dean of libraries and the William T. Young Endowed Chair at the **University of Kentucky Libraries**, has been named the recipient of the 2008 Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS). The award recognizes her extraordinary service to the field of library science in the U.S.

Over 3,000 visitors came through the doors of the new **Pulaski County Public Library** for the grand opening on March 17. The three-story facility is 45,000-square-feet, has a community room that can accommodate 200 people and has 100 parking places.

The fourth-annual "One Book One Lexington" community reading program kicked off on Friday, March 14, at the **Lexington Public Library** with a dance featuring live music. Prior to the dance, the library premiered a documentary on World War II from the personal perspectives of Lexington's "Greatest Generation." The documentary was produced by the library cable channel staff and features interviews with several local WWII veterans and others who experienced the war from the homefront.

The **Marshall County Public Library** held its 5th annual "I Love to Read Program" in February. Including readers from all three branches, 212 participants read 3,171 books in this year's program.

The Erlanger Branch of the **Kenton County Public Library** is hosting a series of programs for seniors. The "Senior Series" began on March 5 and runs through May 31. There will be a Senior Advisory Group meeting on Wednesday, May 14 at 2 p.m. Seniors are invited to help library staff choose topics for the monthly senior programs and the library's next series. The input will help staff plan great programs of interest to seniors.

Two programs are featured at the **Scott County Public Library**. The "Prime Time Family Reading Time" program features stories read in English, Spanish, and Japanese. Another program, the "Sit, Stay, Read Program," has resulted in an additional special session for children with autism. Eight children and their parents attended the first session.

The Eagles Club of Mayfield gave the **Graves County Public Library** \$1,000.00 to be used to purchase materials on autism. The club raised the money by holding a Motorcycle Poker Run.

The theme for the Friends of the **Fulton County Public Library** annual fundraiser was "Mardi Gras." The fundraiser was at the Ponotoc Center in Fulton on Saturday, February 2, 2008. Those who attended the event enjoyed Cajun style food, a local jazz band, and a silent auction. The event raised over \$2,500.00 for the library.

El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros

Children's Day/Book Day, also known as El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día), is a celebration of children, families, and reading held annually on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Día is an enhancement of Children's Day, which began in 1925. Children's Day was designated as a day to bring attention to the importance and well-being of children. In 1996, nationally acclaimed children's book author Pat Mora proposed linking the celebration of childhood and children with literacy to found El día de los niños/El día de los libros.

Through a series of grants from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Association for Library Service for Children (ALSC) continues to increase public awareness of the event in libraries throughout the country. ALSC is collaborating on this effort with the Founding Partner of Día, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA). In 2007, ALSC welcomed Target as the first official national sponsor of Día. Additional information is available at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/diadelosninos/diadelosninos.cfm>.

Children's Book Week

Since 1919, Children's Book Week has been celebrated nationally in schools, libraries, bookstores, clubs, private homes - any place where there are children and books. Educators, librarians, booksellers, and families have celebrated children's books and the love of reading with storytelling, parties, author and illustrator appearances, and other book related events.

It all began with the idea that children's books can change lives. In 1913, Franklin K. Matthews, the librarian of the Boy Scouts of America, began touring the country to promote higher standards in children's books. He proposed creating a Children's Book Week, which would be supported by all interested groups: publishers, booksellers, and librarians.

At the 1919 American Booksellers Association convention, the Association committed to the organization of an annual Children's Book Week. A few months later, the official approval of the American Library Association was also secured during its first Children's Librarians session.

This year, Children's Book Week will be May 13 -19. It's a time to celebrate books and reading in the classroom, the library and the home. Find ways to create your own memorable celebrations at: <http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbw/>.

The need for Children's Book Week today is as essential as it was in 1919, and the task remains the realization of Publishers Weekly editor and long-time Children's Book Week ally Frederic Melcher's fundamental declaration: "A great nation is a reading nation."

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Kentucky READ Campaign	1-2
Kentucky Writers' Day	3
Get Caught Reading Month	3
2007 Kentucky Public Library Salary and Benefits Survey	4-5
New Kentucky State Archivist	5
Annual SOLINET Meeting	5
National Library Legislative Day	5
'Cross the Commonwealth	6
El Día de los Niños/ El Día de los Libros	7
Children's Book Week	7

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